

The **Indian Linux Users Group, Chennai Chapter (ILUGC)** and **National Resource Center for Free/Open Source Software (NRCFOSS), Chennai, take great pleasure in inviting** you to participate in **FossConf'09** to be held at Thiagarajar College of Engineering Madurai from 27th February to 1st March 2009.

SCOPE:

The conference will focus on new users and contributors to FOSS together with advanced learning sessions. People can improve their knowledge and gain experience in speaking on and presenting FOSS related topics.

For Teachers/Lecturers/Professors:

Training in teaching and using of FOSS subjects and tools.

For Government Employees: Orientation on how to effectively use their FOSS systems.

Mini-Talks: 10 minutes each, every conceivable FOSS related topic highlighting some aspect of FOSS.

Tutorials: Up to 2 hrs of intense instruction on a particular subject.

Informal Talks: Talks, group chats, presentations and discussions 'under the trees' in the Thiagarajar College of Engineering campus.

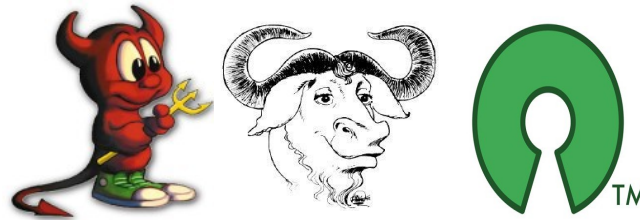
Demos: Installation, Games, Embedded Linux and many.

Student Projects: Project presentations or Ideas for projects using or developing FOSS Tools.

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What is FOSS?

Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) are programs whose licenses give users the freedom to run the program for any purpose, to study and modify the program, and to redistribute either the original or modified copies of the program.



There are three major philosophies in the FOSS world: the *Free Software Foundation (FSF)* philosophy, the *Open Source Initiative (OSI)* philosophy and the *Berkeley Software Distributions (BSD)* philosophy. All of them share the same space and cooperate on practical grounds like software development, efforts against software patents, and such like. FOSS is built with a collaborative development model. Most of its software are created by volunteers and employees of companies, govt. and organisations from all over the world.

FOSS is free to use and everyone has the freedom to contribute to its development. Everyone can benefit from this co-operative development model and hence, we like to call it Free/Open Source Software, or **Socially Responsible Software**. FOSS is not just a type of software, it is a methodology and a movement.

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What is : GNU, Linux, BSD and Distributions ?

GNU's Not Unix:

GNU is a Unix-like OS that comes with source code which can be copied, modified, and redistributed. The GNU project was started in 1980 by Richard M Stallman and others, who formed the FSF. GNU project built a set of tools including a compiler, linker, shell, utilities and a micro kernel (HURD). These tools and the kernel constitute the GNU OS - a Free Operating System. GNU software are released under the GNU General Public License (GPL).

Linux:

In early 1990s, Linus Torvalds, a Finnish student, developed a monolithic kernel that came to be named as Linux, possibly the most prominent example of FOSS. Like GNU tools, Linux kernel is also under continuous development with many of developers contributing code and continuously enhancing its capabilities.

BSD:

BSD began as the "*Berkeley Software Distribution(s)*" in the late 1970's. It added new programs to Unix and, later, the original proprietary Unix code was replaced with BSD licensed code. TCP/IP, IPv6 and IPsec were first widely introduced for BSD.

Distributions:

GNU/Linux or BSD Distribution (or distro) is a complete, usable OS. It consists of various GUI and console applications that could be used for daily work. Well known distro names are Debian, Red Hat, Ubuntu, Mandriva, FreeBSD, OpenBSD, NetBSD etc., Knoppix distribution allow you to run the OS from the Live CD, without having to install it on the hard disk.

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